



March 2, 2021

Chair Marvin Abney
Members of the Committee
House Finance
State House
Providence, RI


Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Finance Committee,

On behalf of HousingWorks RI, I am writing this letter in support of H – 5458 sponsored by Representative Donovan and others. As you know, this bill would extend the State Historic Tax Credit (HTC) program indefinitely. It is currently due to sunset on June 30, 2021.

HousingWorks RI at Roger Williams University is a respected source of information about housing in Rhode Island. We conduct research and analyze data to inform public policy, develop communications strategies, and promote dialogue about the relationship between housing and the state's economic future and improved health and educational outcomes.

Our annual Housing Factbook shows that Rhode Island has not been producing enough housing to meet the existing needs of our residents or to grow economically. HTC has been an important tool to repurpose historic buildings into much need housing and commercial centers throughout our state. Several housing projects, including some affordable housing proposals, are at risk if this program is not extended.

We urge you to pass H-5458 so that this important tool remains available particularly as we work to recover from the economic challenges caused by COVID-19. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Brenda Clement
Executive Director